

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Commissioner Powell:

It is clear that the telecommunications downturn has caused reverberations throughout communities nationwide. It is time the FCC create a level playing field on which telecommunications companies can compete - and that it looks out for the interests of small businesses.

As the President & CEO of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, our community's growth is dependent on access to the latest technologies and advancements in the telecommunications industry - and at a reasonable price. That is why, more than ever, the telecommunications industry's unrest is a serious concern. I am deeply concerned with the situation and how it is affecting the businesses in my community.

It is critical that the FCC establish a national framework governing the telecom industry that encourages investment in infrastructure and creates an environment allowing for long-term, sustainable competition.

The current regulations stifle competition - and drive up prices for small businesses, as well as make it difficult and costly to deploy the telecommunications services that we need for our businesses to grow and succeed. The FCC should eliminate the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P), which has created disincentives for companies such as SBC to invest in the network.

Furthermore, the FCC should seek to pave the way for new telecommunications services to be rolled out more quickly and efficiently. In particular, broadband deployment has been sluggish due to inefficient regulations. Freeing broadband investment from costly unbundling requirements will encourage further investment and the deployment of valuable new technologies nationwide.

Sincerely,

Leron Gubler
President & CEO

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Copps